

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00411 050743Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MMO-01 ABF-01 PER-01 SS-15
INR-10 /044 W

-----119028 050748Z /11

R 050300Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9168
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 411

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: ALLEGED STATE RESTRICTIONS OF DEA: VIENTIANE RESPONSE

REF: A. STATE 083084, B. VIENTIANE 145, C. 77 VIENTIANE
1438, D. 76 VIENTIANE 2689, E. 76 VIENTIANE 2541,
F. 76 VIENTIANE 2148

1. THERE IS NO DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION ELEMENT
AT EMBASSY VIENTIANE, THOUGH THERE IS AN FSO SERVING AS
NARCOTICS OFFICER WHO MAINTAINS REGULAR LIAISON WITH
DEA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN BANGKOK.

2. SINCE THE COMING TO POWER OF THE COMMUNIST LPDR
REGIME IN 1975, EMBASSY VIENTIANE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION
THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AS RESTRAINING OF DEA NOR HAS
THE EMBASSY VETOED ANY DEA OPERATIONS. THE DEA OFFICE
IN BANGKOK MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN NARCOTICS
DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE DEA HAS
ALWAYS EXHIBITED SENSITIVITY TO THE DELICATE NATURE OF
U.S.-LAO RELATIONS IN THE CONDUCT OF ITS OPERATIONS.

3. LAO-U.S. RELATIONS REQUIRE THAT EMBASSY NARCOTICS
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INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BE CARRIED OUT WITH CONSIDERABLE
CIRCUMSPECTION. AS A RESULT, MOST EMBASSY REPORTING IN
THE NARCOTICS AREA IS NOT OF AN OPERATIONAL NATURE.
THE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE LIMITED
OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT TO DEA BANGKOK ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS REFLECTED IN REFS B, C, D, E, F, G.

4. EMBASSY VIENTIANE HAS MADE CLEAR TO APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BANGKOK ITS NEED TO BE
KEPT INFORMED REGARDING ANY DEA OPERATIONS DIRECTED
AGAINST LAO NARCOTICS PRODUCERS OR TRAFFICKERS WHICH
COULD AFFECT LAO-U.S. RELATIONS.
ROBERTS

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Message Attributes

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